

MechSE WELLness

X01 Fundamental Material Precautions

Intent: Reduce or eliminate human exposure to building materials known to be hazardous.

Asbestos, heavy metals, lead, and other such previously and yet common materials are known with frequent exposure or ingestion to harm human health and ruin well-being. Limiting their amounts in the building reduces the chance of exposure. Facilities personnel should seek to eliminate compact fluorescent light bulbs, use of lead pipes in plumbing piping delivering drinking water, and paints that contain lead. There is no known safe level of lead exposure. Thus, further precautions are taken when considering furniture and every building element for known lead use.

Impact: Restriction of harmful materials directly impacts health of all occupants. Doing so also promotes a revolution in the building industry to cease their use and seek alternative materials.

What are the requirements to earn this credit?

1. Any new materials used contain less than 1% by weight of asbestos.
2. Any new materials used eliminate use of mercury at human-interface points, such as thermostats, switches, and nearby electrical components. Mercury use is greatly restricted in the choice of light fixtures.
3. All drinking systems are lead free.
4. All indoor paints and surface coatings contain less than 90 parts per million of total lead.

How is MechSE accomplishing these requirements?

MechSE developed policies stating the clear objectives above and go beyond when possible to eliminate the use of asbestos, mercury, and lead. All materials, paints, furniture, etc. are thoroughly reviewed to ensure we do not introduce harmful materials into the facility. MechSE facilities is also seeking to benefit from the International Living Future's "Red List", a list that severely restricts use of known harmful materials to our health and encourages owners to send letters to manufacturers to seek alternative materials and change the building industry.



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